

those great reforms of church policy and church co-operation. What is the result? Progress and growth among us in all directions. Stability and strength and respectability as a branch of the church of Jesus Christ. An ever increasing attraction as a church home for the educated and able young Brethren of the G. B. church whom Elder Miller is making so desperate an effort to prejudice against us, an effort, however, which will fail. Brethren, have we learned our lesson well? Does any one want to take the back track on our record and history since the first Winona conference?

When since the beginning of the reform movement has such a picture been presented to our eyes:—the walls of the German Baptist stronghold of ecclesiastical authority crumbling, their ablest, their foremost man standing in the breach like a stern warrior, and striking as a warrior, however he may, fairly or unfairly.

Brethren let our victory be the victory of love and holiness. Let there be no bitterness, but love and prayer for our German Baptist brethren in Christ. And let us not so much exult because their able young men are coming to us, but rather be greatly concerned that our churches shall be safe and inspiring spiritual homes for them, that Jesus Christ shall everywhere be exalted, and that holiness to the Lord shall everywhere among us be written in all godliness of walk and conversation.

### The Eloquence of Character

Emerson says: "What you are speaks so loud I cannot hear what you say." Eloquent speech, oratorical power, the magnetism of the pulpit or rostrum, these are the objects of perhaps more youthful ambition than any other. And many is the disappointed preacher and speaker who finds his natural limits far short of this coveted goal, who like Moses is slow and heavy of speech, his rhetoric like faded flowers, his logic a dragging sled, his imagery wingless. Take courage brother, there is one eloquence which you may possess in as eminent a degree as the most gifted of mortals, and that is the eloquence of character. It is a far more efficient weapon than fine speech, will do more good in the world, make more powerfully for righteousness, convert more souls, build up more good causes, salt more raw world. Make the most of it. Let what you are, in purity of life, in unselfishness of purpose, in charity, honesty, godly zeal, all true worth speak so loud that men will not hear your grammatical blunders or your shortcomings in rhetoric. And let the other fellow beware lest his inconsistent, worldly, indifferent life bawl so loud in men's ears that they shall not be able to hear his beautifully rounded periods. Why should he "waste his sweetness on the desert air?"

### The Specialist

The vagaries of the specialist are sometimes amusing. A noted mathematician, who made that science his sole study, once said that he thought the study of mathematics would be the principal occupation in heaven. There are those who

devote a lifetime and considerable talents to the investigation and classification of a new species of beetle. Numerous instances of total absorption in some ridiculously abstract pursuit could be adduced. It is good and useful to be a specialist if the object is adequate, but it is neither good nor useful to be absurd. We have specialists in religion, in doctrine, in evangelism, and some of them are absurd. They have lost the sense of proportion. They are swallowed up by a beetle. A class which had reached a very much lower degree of development in this direction were those who strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel. A lop-sided soul is a deformity.

### Personal Effort

A minister of experience who kept a record of conversions thru many years found that in almost every case some person was the direct means of bringing the sinner to Christ. There can be no doubt of the power of personal effort, and that church is greatly blessed which has a number of consecrated men and women who watch for favorable opportunities to speak an earnest word to a friend, a neighbor, a youth, a child, bearing upon the matters of the soul. The trouble with most people is doubt as to adaptability to this kind of work. That doubt may disappear when you make an honest effort to do your duty. Do not be discouraged by an occasional rebuff. You are not so easily discouraged in your temporal concerns. What, by the way, would become of your temporal interests, your business, your property, if you were as shy of making personal effort in temporal matters as you are in spiritual matters? If Christians were as competent and sensible in the business of the church as they are in the world's business, what would happen?

### The Christian College

Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, of New York, in a recent sermon, said: "I would send a boy to a third-rate college provided with a corps of instructors so pronouncedly Christian that teaching should itself be a gentle but continuous testimony to the religious assurance, before I would send him to a first rate college where he would be liable to have God omitted from the classroom, and to have the matter of not only the soul, but even of the stars, the rocks, birds, and flowers handled not simply with impious jests, but with religious uncertainty and evasion."

T. L. Cuyler crossed the ocean in a powerful steamship, which weighed more than twenty thousand tons and pushed her way against wind and wave at the rate of over twenty knots an hour. I could not see the propelling force; that was hidden deep down in the glowing furnaces, heaped constantly with fresh coal. That illustrates the spiritual life of every strong, healthy, growing Christian; his strength is measured by the inward supply of divine grace. The spiritual force and progress of a growing Christian prove that his life is hid with Jesus Christ. Happy are you if your neighbors, who can see you every day, can know by your outward conduct that your inner life is fed by an unseen Christ.